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EXAMINER

GRAY, L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1734

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trad marks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/095,365

Applicant(s)
Kakinuma et al.

Examiner
Linda L. Gray

Group Art Unit
1734



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2-23-00

☒ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire three month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☒ Claim(s) 12 and 13 is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. **Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.**

Claim 1 includes "without requiring sensors to activate the cutter" which is not supported in the original application. Although the original application is silent on the use of sensors for the cutter, silence is not considered support, Ex Parte Graselli 231 USPQ 393. The same applies to the amendment to **claim 11** of "without an alignment assembly".

3. **Claims 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.**

Claim 4, "may be changed" (L 2) renders claim 4 indefinite because it is not clear if the limitation that follows is required or not. **Claim 6**, use of "the exchange of the tape" (L 2-3) renders claim 6 indefinite because there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

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5. **Claims 1-2, 4, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Clark, Jr. et al. (US 4,966,644).**

Claims 1 and 11, Clark, Jr. et al. (Clark et al.) teach a sheet sorting apparatus for adhering marker

3 to predetermined sheet 4 including **(a)** tape feeder 38 for pulling out tape 13 having heat/pressure sensitive adhesive 15 on one side edge 17, **(b)** cutter 39 for making marker 3 by cutting tape 13 at a preset length (c 4, L 56-60), **(c)** guide 35 for positioning marker 3 to a predetermined position on sheet 4, and **(d)** marker-and-sheet-feeder 41 for feeding marker 3 and sheet 4 in partially overlapping position wherein marker 3 is adhered to sheet 4 by a predetermined pressure force (caused by rollers 108/109) as they pass through feeder 41 (p 4, L 34, to p 12, L 37).

The claim limitation of "being output by an image processing apparatus" (L 2) is an intended use of the sheet sorting apparatus (i.e., use the sheet sorting apparatus with an image processing apparatus). There is nothing in the claims that requires the sheet sorting apparatus to be used with an imaging processing apparatus. The new matter has not been considered.

Claim 2, marker 3 is adhered to an underside of sheet 4 in that marker 3 is adhered to the back (Fig 13). **Claim 4**, Clark et al. do not teach that the adhering position is changeable where use of the language "may" in claim 4 means that the adhering position can change but does not have to change.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark, Jr. et al. in view of Vonderhorst et al. (US 5,556,492).

***Claim 5**, the difference between claim 5 and Clark et al. is that Clark et al. do not teach a sensor for marker 3 in a forward position of the apparatus.*

Vonderhorst et al. teach the necessity of a sensor for a marker in a forward position of a label producing apparatus such that feed of the web material to make the marker can be halted when necessary. Sensor 52 for labels 14 in a forward position of a label producing apparatus is used such that the feed of web 12 to make labels 14 can be halted when necessary (c 2, L 28-30; c 3, L 54-60; c 6, L 38-51).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided in Clark et al. a sensor for marker 3 in a forward position of the apparatus because Vonderhorst et al. teach the necessity of a sensor for a marker in a forward position of a label producing apparatus such that feed of the web material to make the marker can be halted when necessary where unnecessary feed of the web material would cause backup of the web in the apparatus.

7. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark, Jr. et al. in view of Nobile et al. (US 5,390,594).

Claim 6, the difference between claim 6 and Clark et al. is that Clark et al. do not teach a tape end detector on the path of tape 13 for signaling tape 13 exchange.

Nobile et al. teaches the necessity of a tape end detector on the path of a tape for signaling tape exchange so that the machine operating on the tape does not continue to operate unnecessarily. Detector 216 performs this operation (c 1, L 49-52; c 2, L 34-43; c 3, L 35-58; c 11, L 13, to c 12, L 29).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided in Clark et al. a tape end detector on the path of tape 13 for signaling tape 13 exchange because Nobile et al. teaches the necessity of having a tape end detector on the path of a tape for signaling tape exchange so that the machine operating on the tape does not continue to operate unnecessarily.

8. Claims 1-2, 4, 7-8, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Busk (US 3,245,859) in view of Lowe et al. (US 3,926,713).

Claims 1 and 11, Busk teaches a sheet sorting apparatus for adhering marker E to predetermined sheet D including **(a)** a tape feeder for pulling out tape K of plastic, **(b)** cutter 73/75 for making marker E by cutting tape K at a preset length, **(c)** guide N for positioning marker E to a predetermined position on sheet D, and **(d)** marker-and-sheet-feeder R for feeding marker E and sheet D in partially overlapping position (partially overlaps on one side and partially overlaps on the other side) wherein marker E is adhered to sheet D by a predetermined pressure force as they pass through feeder R, using heat (c 2, L 48, to c 5, L 47). Cutter 73/75 does not require sensors for activation.

The claim limitation of "being output by an image processing apparatus" is an intended use of the sheet sorting apparatus (i.e., use the sheet sorting apparatus with an image processing apparatus). There is nothing in the claims that requires the sheet sorting apparatus to be used with an imaging processing apparatus.

The difference between claims 1 and 11 and Busk is that Busk does not teach that marker E has pressure sensitive adhesive on the bonding edges.

Lowe et al. teach a sheet sorting apparatus for adhering marker 53 to predetermined sheet 38 including **(a)** a tape feeder for pulling out tape 76 of plastic along or plastic having pressure sensitive

adhesive on the bonding edges, (b) cutter 78' for making marker 53 by cutting tape 76 at a preset length, and (c) guide 79 for positioning marker 53 to a predetermined position on sheet 38 wherein marker 53 is adhered to sheet 38 by a predetermined pressure force, using heat (c 2, L 23, to c 10, L 51).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided in Busk that marker E has a pressure sensitive adhesive on the bonding edges because Lowe et al. teach that such is a conventional alternative to plastic alone and it is obvious to replace one type of tab-tape (that of Busk) with another art recognized alternative type of tab-tape (that of Lowe et al.).

Claim 2, marker E is adhered to an underside of sheet D.

***Claim 4**, Busk does not teach that the adhering position is changeable where use of the language "may" in claim 4 means that the adhering position can change but does not have to change. In any event, if "may" means to change the position, Lowe et al. teach that such is possible using solenoids 40, 41, and 42 so that one can place marker 53 as desired or necessary.*

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided in Busk that the adhering position is possible because Lowe et al. teach making the adhering position of a tab possible gives one the freedom of placing the marker as desired or necessary.

***Claims 7-8**, the difference between claims 7-8 and Busk modified is that Busk modified does not teach a single motor for driving the feeder, cutter 73/75, guide N, and feeder R.*

It is convention to use one motor to operate several items of an apparatus in order to save on the cost of purchasing more than one motor, and it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided in Busk modified single motor for driving the feeder, cutter 73/75, guide N, and feeder R in order to save on the cost of purchasing more than one motor.

9. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Busk in view of Lowe et al. as applied to claims 1-2, 4, 7-8, and 11 and further in view of Vonderhorst et al.

***Claim 5**, the difference between claim 5 and Busk modified is that Busk modified does not teach a sensor for marker E in a forward position of the apparatus.*

In view of Vonderhorst et al., it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided in Busk modified a sensor for marker E in a forward

position of the apparatus because Vonderhorst et al. teach the necessity of a sensor for a marker in a forward position of a label producing apparatus such that feed of the web material to make the marker can be halted when necessary where unnecessary feed of the web material would cause backup of the web in the apparatus.

10. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Busk in view of Lowe et al. as applied to claims 1-2, 4, 7-8, and 11 above, and further in view of Nobile et al.

Claim 6, the difference between claim 6 and Busk modified is that Busk modified does not teach a tape end detector on the path of tape K for signaling tape K exchange.

In view of Nobile, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided in Busk modified a tape end detector on the path of tape K for signaling tape K exchange because Nobile et al. teaches the necessity of having a tape end detector on the path of a tape for signaling tape exchange so that the machine operating on the tape does not continue to operate unnecessarily.

11. The indicated allowability of claims 3 and 9-10 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference to Busk modified in view of Cavender (US 4,070,220), necessitated by amendment because of the new matter added to claims 1 and 11 and because of the correction of the objection to claims 4-6. Rejections based on the newly cited reference follows:

Claims 3 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Busk in view of Lowe et al. as applied to claims 1-2, 4, 7-8, and 11 above, and further in view of Cavender (US 4,070,220).

Claim 3, the difference between claim 3 and Busk modified is that Busk modified does not teach a printer for markers E having a printer controller to apply the same indicia/color pattern to markers E.

It is conventional to provide a printer for labels clearly having a printer controller of some kind to apply the same indicia/color pattern to the labels where the labels can be mass produced. This is also demonstrated by Cavender.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided in Busk modified a printer for marker E having a controller to apply the same indicia/color pattern to markers E because it is conventional to provide a printer for labels clearly having a printer controller of some kind to apply the same indicia/color pattern to the labels so that the labels can

be mass produced.

Claims 9-10, the difference between claim 9 and Busk modified is that Busk modified does not teach an inkjet printer (claim 9) or stamper (claim 10).

An ink jet printer and a stamper are conventional in the art. Note that Cavender does not restricted the printer to any one specific kind but indicates use of a "suitable" printer.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided in Busk modified an inkjet printer or stamper because an inkjet printer and a stamper are conventional printers, and it is obvious to replace one type of printer (that of Busk, modified, not specifically disclosed) with another art recognized alternative printer.

Allowable Subject Matter

12. Claims 12-13 are allowed.

13. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The primary reason for the indication of allowable subject matter in **claim 12** is that the prior art of record does not teach an image processing apparatus including a sheet sorting apparatus for adhering a marker to a predetermined sheet discharged from the image processing apparatus where the sheet sorting apparatus includes a tape feeder for pulling out a tape having a pressure sensitive adhesive on one side edge, a guide for positioning the marker to a predetermined position on the sheet, and a marker and sheet feeder for feeding the marker and sheet in a partially overlapping positioning wherein the marker is adhered to the sheet by a predetermined pressure force as they pass through the marker and sheet feeder.

14. Since allowable subject matter has been indicated, Applicants are encouraged to submit formal drawings in response to this Office action. The early submission of formal drawings will permit the Office to review the drawings for acceptability and to resolve any informalities remaining therein before the application is passed to issue. This will avoid possible delays in the issue process.

15. As allowable subject matter has been indicated, Applicants' reply must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with, 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP § 707.07(a).

Response to Arguments

16. Applicants' arguments filed 2-23-00 have been fully considered. Applicants' comments concerning the amendment to claim 1 of "without requiring sensors to activate the cutter" and the amendment to claim

11 of "without an alignment assembly" are noted. In response, these limitations are new matter. Applicants' comment with respect to the prior art rejection of claims 7-8 over Clark et al. is noted; in response, claims 7-8 have been removed from the prior art rejection over Clark et al.

The new abstract has been entered. The amendment to the specification has been entered. The amendments to the claims have been entered. The supplemental declaration has been entered. The Examiner has located support for the amendments to the claims at the location indicated by Applicants; further, support for the amendment to claim 2 is found at page 12, lines 1-8, and Figure 9.

Conclusion

17. Applicants' amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicants are reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Examiner Linda L. Gray at (703)308-1093, Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. The necessary fax numbers are (703)305-7718 (official), (703)305-7115 (unofficial), and (703)305-3599 (after final).

llg
April 28, 2000

Linda L. Gray
Linda L. Gray
Patent Examiner